

## THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY

I've always wanted to watch an exorcism  
but no one's ever invited  
except Inside Edition and the immediate family.

The church keeps it all hush hush.  
Priests slip in and out  
through breaks in the hedges, dark red oils  
concealed in the folds of their clothes.

Even if you're standing across the street  
you won't hear much of a scream  
before it's muffled.

Neighbors gather. Coolers, cameras. A portable TV  
on a cardtable so everyone can watch the interview.  
The mother with soot-rings for eyes.  
Dad with his discipline  
and distance.

When it's over you realize  
they were less concerned about you seeing  
this latest incarnation of evil  
than about you seeing  
these people who remove all cause for doubt.

## COMPANY CAR

My company car is maroon and shiny

I'm expected to have it washed every week  
so the clients who ride with me  
will have a good impression of the car, and me

I'm not supposed to take it to the shore on weekends  
but I do, and the sea-mists  
on the chrome don't go unnoticed

it doesn't have any guts in highway confrontations  
would rather let other cars cut it off  
than cause trouble

I can't seem to get the radio  
off the easy-listening station  
it's Kenny Rogers morning noon and night

my personality changes when I turn the key  
I feel the hooks they have in me  
I don't think I've ever used the horn.